

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
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### Amendments to the Claims

The claims are presented as follows:

1. (Original) A node for grooming low capacity client signals into a high capacity signal, comprising:
  - an interface to a high capacity trunk for coupling to a type one node; and
  - an interface to a high capacity trunk for coupling to a type two node;wherein only a portion of those low capacity client signals destined for the type one node are groomed into the high capacity trunk to the type two node.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the groomed portion is zero.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the type two node is a high traffic node.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the type one node is a cable station and the type two node is a central office.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the low capacity client signals are E1 (PDH (plesiochronous digital hierarchy)) type signals and the high capacity signal is a synchronous transport module (STM-1) signal.
6. (Original) Apparatus for performing selective grooming of client signals, the apparatus comprising:
  - a node coupled (a) directly to a first node via a high capacity trunk, and (b) to a second node via a high capacity trunk such that only a portion of the client signals destined for the first node are groomed into the high capacity trunk to the second node.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the groomed portion is zero.

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8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the first node is a low traffic node and the second node is a high traffic node.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the first node is a cable station and the second node is a central office.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the client signals are E1 (PDH (plesiochronous digital hierarchy)) type signals and the high capacity trunk supports a synchronous transport module (STM-1) signal.
11. Cancelled
12. Cancelled
13. Cancelled
14. (Original) A method for use in node, the method comprising the steps of:  
receiving low capacity client signals;  
selectively grooming a portion of the received low capacity client signals into a high capacity trunk for transmission to a first type of node; and  
transmitting others of the low capacity client signals over an other high capacity trunk directly coupled to a second type of node.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the low capacity client signals represents E1 (PDH (plesiochronous digital hierarchy)) type signals and the high capacity trunk supports a synchronous transport module (STM-1) signal.
16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the groomed portion is zero.

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17. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the second type of node is a cable station and the first type of node is a central office.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the second type of node is a low traffic node and the first type of node is a high traffic node.

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